

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 OPR-02

AID-20 DRC-01 SAM-01 /159 W
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P 291615Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2563

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCOMARQUES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI POL AO PINS PINT

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN ANGOLA FROM MILITARY VIEWPOINT

1. RELIABLE SOURCE IN HIGH COMMAND REPORTS THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE CHANGE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY SINCE COUP. HOWEVER, PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE HAS INFORMATION THAT ROBERTO HOLDEN'S FNLA HAS ISSUED ORDER TO ITS UNITS INSIDE ANGOLA TO STEP UP ITS WARFARE, AND TO EMPHASIZE URBAN TERRORISM. PORTUGUESE INTELLIGENCE, BOTH ARMY AND DGS (SEE BELOW) DOES NOT CREDIT FNLA WITH ANY SIGNIFICANT URBAN STRUCTURE (UNLIKE MPLA, WHICH IS KNOWN TO HAVE A WELL ENTRENCHED, AS WELL AS WELL INFILTRATED, URBAN ORGANIZATION).

2. DGS IS FINISHED. THOSE OF ITS OFFICERS STILL FELT NEEDED BY ARMY ARE BEING CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY (THIS INCLUDES SAO JOSE LOPES, DGS HEAD FOR THE OVERSEAS, WHO WAS IN LISBON WHEN COUP BROKE OUT, ARRESTED AND ACCORDING TO SOURCE SHORTLY WILL BE RETURNING "INVOLUNTARILY" TO ANGOLA TO WORK FOR ARMY). FLECHAS NOW DIRECTLY UNDER ARMY CONTROL.

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3. POLITICAL PRISONERS AT SAO NICOLAU PRISON TO BE RELEASED.

COMMON CRIMINALS WILL REMAIN. ALTHOUGH THERE ONLY A FEW TERROR-ISTS IN PRISON HERE, MOST HAVING LONG SINCE OPTED TO JOIN FLECHAS, ARMY UNDECIDED WHICH OF THEM TO RELEASE.

4. CIVIL AND MILITARY SIDES OF GOVERNMENT ARE SEPARATE. BOTH TAKE ORDERS FROM JUNTA IN LISBON.

5. SOURCE (HIMSELF NAVAL OFFICER) EXPRESSED FRANK ADMIRATION FOR NAVAL OFFICERS CHOSEN BY SPINOLA. STATES THEY ARE TRUSTWORTHY, HONEST AND VERY CAPABLE.

6. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OFFICERS IN ANGOLA WHO HAVE NOT AGREED WITH COUP, BUT THEY ARE NOT IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION AND WILL OBEY ORDERS.
BRIGGS

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